

How Stands United States of America? SCHOOL GARDEN CONTEST

Gleams of Observation By Visitor Here

PAIA WILL TRY WHAT DOES BEST IN THIS SECTION

HARD LUCK DOES NOT STOP WORK UP AT PEPEKEO

Noted Merchant of London and Australia Gives Frank View of Uncle Sam's Country, People and Business as He Sees Them—Some Disappointments Noted

By D. STEWART DAWSON
(Mr. Dawson, a visitor from London, has written the following article especially for the Star-Bulletin. He is one of the merchant captains of industry of Australasia, with establishments in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, as well as in London. He has been visiting here for some time and leaves for Australia on January 24.)

During the last 25 years, it has been my privilege in connection with business to have made about 15 voyages between London, Australia and New Zealand, but only two of these have been made through the United States. I am now en route on the second. When a businessman of 66 travels through a comparatively new country, he will naturally try to see matters in all their characteristic bearings, he will keep a perfectly open mind, remembering the weaknesses and failures, as well as the strength and fortitude of his own country, so that he may discover a true and just line for comparison. Such a man will take a keen interest in the business formula of that new country. He will look around him everywhere for improvements and new business ideas. If his mind is receptive, he will get from the presence of such things an invigorating tonic for his mentality.

This is my view of just how such matters affect the environment of myself.
Confident in Right Over Might
Referring back to the old country which I left November 25, needless to say I came away full of concern, but nevertheless buoyed up in the belief that "justice and right will prevail" and that England's herculean effort now being exerted in the cause of civilization will at no great distant date enshrine the "Homeland Isle" with eternal fame, and the abiding endorsement of all civilized nations.
BUT HOW STANDS AMERICA?
That land of vaunted progress, where passing events have proved that hereditary blood does not fill the adage of being thicker than water, and where the soul of all that should count as representing the highest instincts of humanity seemingly has stood for nothing, as against a probable "break-away" in anticipated greater possession of the almighty dollar.

America's Industry and Purpose

Turning to what should represent and stand for America's aims and purpose in her commercial achievements, it may not be out of place to say that perhaps I arrived in New York with too high expectations. One thing, I know, I was prepared for, and expected to see great things, and I kept my eyes wide open, so that all the thrill of manly business, progress, purpose and achievement might find its goal within me.

America Disappoints Me

Well to come to the crux of the matter, let me say at once, I expected to see in this greatly vaunted business country, American commercial ideals, and business attainments, industrial and otherwise, all enshrined with the spirit of imagination and originality, all courageously visible to the casual observer, but alas I regret to say I have been disappointed.

Stands America Without Originality?

Why did I not see great industrial ideals, and great improvements in America? Well I think I can tell the readers of this paper "why." It is perfectly apparent to me, and little doubt to many others, that the United States has been the great expert at sending an emporium in getting together and using the pick of all the valuable unprotected ideas of the world (industrial and otherwise) and why not? Whether such a practise represents lack of brain-service, or an admission of humiliating weakness (or part of both) must be passed an open question. I see no crime in using up wholesale the valuable ideas of others, but I do see that in following this course, great and almost irreparable loss will ensue in the non-development of the country's brain-power. Therefore today in America the prevailing condition throughout industry is that invariably every person appears to be working on a copy—eternal copy—always copy, but sometimes with slight deviations.

Imagination Ruled Out

Any thinking man must feel staggered if it is forced on his intellect

that the industrial section of the United States has no use for the word "imagination."

So long as the tremendous demand of the United States absorbs almost everything that can be made (copy or otherwise) then I read their answer "Why trouble about imagination?"

The prevailing American formula everywhere is, "supply the article" and let tomorrow provide for itself. The position deserves an obscure battle, as between getting ahead anyhow, or getting ahead, and subordinating mentality into a hereditary stereotyped condition.

Architecture and the Sky Scraper

But what of architecture, the buildings, hotels, department stores, shops, etc.? Most thinking people will agree that the character and quality of men's minds are portrayed in their work. There are, no doubt, great minds engaged in the sphere of architecture in such a great country as America, where there exists what every architect looks for, but when an architect is reduced to a kind of slave, regardless of his ability, his art, or heroic intentions, etc., etc., and only buildings that will pay dividends, although devoid of art and character, are asked for, the soulless sky-scraper is the sequel. Standardization which is everywhere in full evidence in America is rampant in the sky-scraper, the prospective property builder simply states number of stories he desires, and up goes the "scraper!" They are all practically alike—this also applies to the division of the floors. These sky-scrapers in a sense proclaim the stereotyped spirit of the country, but they probably carry out their dividend earning mission satisfactorily. That consideration to the American is of first importance.

Hotels and Restaurants

The hotels are but a separate edition of the sky-scrapers. Everything in and about them bespeaks the word "standardization." The food, however (a la carte), in many is all that could be desired. The restaurant decorations, even in some of the newest of them, form spectacles of dismay. Anyone who has visited our "Carlton," London, can picture its appearance by changing its ivory white and gold, Adam's decoration, into chocolate brown and placing overhead extremely heavy copper-colored electrolights, which to add to the tragedy are only faintly lighted during dinner. I remarked one evening to my dining friend "Here is a thoroughly efficient recipe to dispel all our youth, and beauty, from our restaurants in London, so that with war economy the order of the day, we might paint all our restaurants inside chocolate brown." After a slight pause my friend remarked, "Not only youth and beauty dine." Being a Scotsman, it took me a little time to see his joke.

The Department Stores

The department stores are in full evidence throughout America and they enter into the family life largely, although the American department stores follow the cue of the Bon Marche, and Louvre in Paris, as closely as their less expensive or less artistic class of merchandise will permit. It is safe to say that the first department store in America, built some 50 years ago, was preceded 30 years by Compton House, Liverpool, a department store built by Miss Jefferys. The department store in America taking its best points offers attractive merchandise and service, but there is nothing novel or wonderful in its environment, stress, competition, and circumstances are stereotyping, and calling a halt on its early prosperous career.

Wild Protection and Insanity

The contents of the department stores form ample opportunity for judging the relative merits of American's industrial output. The stores stock everything that will sell, general productions for the millions are usually sold at low prices, but not lower than their quality represents. For the higher grades exorbitantly high prices are charged, prices that are purposely marked up against buyers to the level of imported, duty-paid, equality—made possible by America's almost prohibitory protection, which if removed would leave the major portion of American industry hopelessly bankrupt, on this wild protection (in reality an economic war against the whole manufacturing world) alone endures the whole fabric of United States industry.

If Great Britain has remained mildly insane in her free-trade policy, a condition only admissible if the entire manufacturing world stood free, America tops the list in reckless protective insanity, she pampers her capitalists, stuffs their banking accounts, pads her industrial artisans with tariff, in plain words announcing to all the world, that without this padding her artisans' competitive ability is such that they could not survive in the stress of personal effort. America's millions of people are perched on a tottering pedestal of deathly insecurity, they blindly await the day of reckoning.

Shops Without Majestic Appearance

I think I will confine my observations to the jewelry and silverware shops, the business I have been connected with for nearly 50 years.

In a great land like the United States of America, flowing with money, youth and anticipation, with opportunity apparently chasing every man, one would expect to find great jewelry emporiums in all the representative towns, each carrying out part of their mission as gift providers, however, let me say they do not exist in that majestic importance. I can picture the possibility of such emporiums, to this great one hundred million country. There are, however, several jewelry firms doing important business, and carrying expensive

Paia, Maui, January 12, 1917.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: Paia school wishes to take part in the Garden Contest. Many boys have already started their gardens. The ground is full of large rocks and millions of small stones. The boys have to contend with all kinds of weeds and grasses.

We have sent to Philadelphia for seeds. We are preparing the ground for a large school garden.

We will try many varieties of well-known seeds and experiment with new vegetables. We shall find what vegetables and what varieties do best in Paia.

We will also try the effect of fertilizer by planting part of the garden with fertilizer and part without.

The gardens will be well laid out. Although we have many things to contend with we think that we will get the first prize.

Yours respectfully,
MANUEL SILVA.

Grade VIII, Paia school.

(Editor's note.—This letter shows how enthusiastically the Paia pupils are going into the contest. Their alertness in sending to Philadelphia for seeds and trying to find what can best grow in the Paia neighborhood is to be highly commended.)

FINDS SUNNY DAYS REVIVE TURNIPS WHICH SEEMED TO BE DEAD

Hilo, Hawaii, Jan. 11, 1917.
Honolulu Star-Bulletin,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dear Sirs: I started on my garden at the beginning of the term in September, 1916. My partners and I cleared and tilled the garden for some time. The garden was small, so we got another garden. My partners and I cleared the garden for about two weeks. Then we divided it.

I planted beets, but they did not grow, so I planted turnips. I did not

stocks, but on the whole the country is poorly represented in the jewelry line. The production of jewelry and silverware is limited in character and in the class of goods produced, their diamonds and gem set articles are mostly copies of Parisian and Continental productions. The shop windows and shop interiors present a meager soulless expression, and reveal an entire absence of any artistic ability in displaying their wares.

No Evidence of Enthusiasm

In the planning and setting out of the jewelry shops referred to, there is no visible evidence of proprietary enthusiasm. Even the best shops are all fitted up in the so much per yard style of abiding dreary sameness. There is entirely absent everywhere the inspiring tone of originality, and although I have spent the major portion of my business life designing, planning, improving and rebuilding time after time, my eight stores in Australasia and two in London, I admit there is no special reason why every other jeweler should be doing likewise.

Youth and City Distractions

The modern distractions of big cities like New York, Chicago and London in my way of thinking destroy the concerted purpose and continuity of youth, no getting along in an original way, I therefore admit I had a great natural advantage. The invigorating, peaceful bracing air of the heather hills of Scotland enforced me with that kind of vigor, and enthusiasm that make study and work a recreation, and lift a man lightly over many every-day difficulties. Life on a farm lays a foundation entirely different to that overshadowed by the glare and hustle of electrically lighted big city streets, but at 14 the farm could not hold me longer, so at that age I ventured into the outer world, determined to succeed.

Capital vs. Brain Service

I am fully convinced that neither iron chains nor lack of capital will hold back the man who has got the "Do or Die" in him. I might add that the financial aspect (capital) in my own early beginning had to fill a very small role, but beginners should remember that capital stands subservient to brain service, yet it is really wonderful what even a small capital can do in the hands of the man who knows how to relay it out quickly to advantage, and when he joins this method up to a 16-hour work day, which in my case meant 15 hours of pleasure, his course is resolute, and he is then probably partner, buyer and salesman by day, and after business hours he may elect to find amusement, in the way that formed my own pastime, and become student, artist and architect and even carry his imaginative faculties into the dreams of night; no copy or cringing imitation will satisfy the ambition or fill the dignity of such a man's mind.

Mentality the Alpha and Omega

The material well-being and prosperity of nations are invariably forged in their workshops and factories, but the priceless gems of imagination and originality that precede manufacture and which have fathered and created in the world its present advanced state of discovery and industrial development were all forged in that region of higher mentality, through centuries of individual insistent investigation, and completed achievement, filling their sphere of every stage in the great scheme of civilization and world wide possibilities.

Hilo, Hawaii, Jan. 11, 1917.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: The children of Pepeekeo school are very much interested in the Star-Bulletin garden contest. They are willing workers and are trying hard to win one of the prizes.

They were somewhat discouraged when they came back to school after the vacation and found that the heavy rains and neighbors' ducks had destroyed a number of their best garden beds.

The following vegetables are now growing in our garden and doing well: Peanuts, carrots, peppers and beans. Kohl rabi, lettuce, Japanese cabbage and cabbage were also planted but failed to germinate well. This was probably due to the cold, wet weather. We are planting these seeds again and hope for better success.

Sincerely yours,
GEORGIA COBB.

Teacher in charge of the garden work at Pepeekeo school.

(Never mind the hard luck, Pepeekeo—try just twice as hard for the prizes. There's a whole lot in rising above disappointment, and Pepeekeo pupils are showing luck and energy in getting to work again. Congratulations on good effort!—Editor.)

plant any other product because my land was small.

Before planting I made the land soft and level. Then I made rows about a foot apart. I put about three or four seeds to an inch. After a few days I put fertilizers around the roots. In about a week they grew about three inches high. Now a few months have passed and they are about eight or nine inches high.

When they were about three inches high we had a heavy rain. They looked as though they were dead, but after a few sunny days they began to grow again.

Sometimes I find footmarks of dogs on my garden, destroying about one or two young plants.

Yours respectfully,
TOMOICHI MACHIDA.

H. K. HOPE
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WITH ITS WONDERFUL DECORATIONS by Albert Herter in the cafe, symbolizing the gifts of the Old World to America; the Lounge, inspired by the Chateau Brissac, in which society assemblies daily for afternoon tea; the stately, spacious Rose Room, where dancing is enjoyed every evening; the Italian Room, walled and ceiled with beautifully carved hazel wood and famed for its portal of gleaming twisted pillars surmounted by a golden image; the Colonial Room, in which the fashionable world produces original plays in a completely equipped theatre—with countless original artistic details (such as Arthur Putnam's puma motive) in its many public rooms—with such unique and exclusive service as the Turkish and Roman baths for ladies (11th floor) and for gentlemen (12th floor), supplied with salt water pumped directly from the ocean; the Electric Grill, where table d'hote meals are served at moderate prices—the Hotel St. Francis is one of the most interesting show places in San Francisco, and a place at which interesting people invariably gather.

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